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EXCOM 9133-80

31 October 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Committee Members

FROM :

SA/DDCI

SUBJECT :

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting,
23 October 1980 -- Long-Range Planning:
Communications

1. The Executive Committee met on 23 October 1980 to review the long-range planning paper on communications. Participants included the DDCI; Messrs. Dirks (DDS&T); Stein (ADDO); Wortman (DDA); Clarke (D/NFAC); Lipton (Compt.); Briggs (IG); Hart (ADDA); Hineman (DD/NFAC); [redacted] (D/Compt); [redacted] (D/OC); and appropriate staff and planning group representatives. [redacted]

2. Mr. Carlucci noted that the communications issue paper focused on three distinct areas -- staff communications, data transmission systems, and covert communications -- and asked Mr. [redacted] who headed the planning effort on this issue, if they could be addressed as a whole. Mr. [redacted] suggested that covert communications be considered separately. He then reviewed what his team saw as the present and future resource requirements for communications from the perspectives of service, continuity and personnel. [redacted]

3. The general theme of Mr. [redacted] remarks was that the Agency's current communications system and equipment are products of the 1950's and 1960's and are approaching obsolescence. The Office of Communications (OC) now has more requirements than it can meet. Only the versatility and ingenuity of OC personnel have kept the system operational and avoided a major failure. Mr. [redacted] cited several examples of the strains and unmet demands on the communications

[redacted]

4. Mr. [redacted] pointed out that talented personnel have averted a major failure to date. Complaints about deteriorating service have increased, however, and OC does not expect to be able to meet some current and future requirements, including those for CRAFT. With adequate

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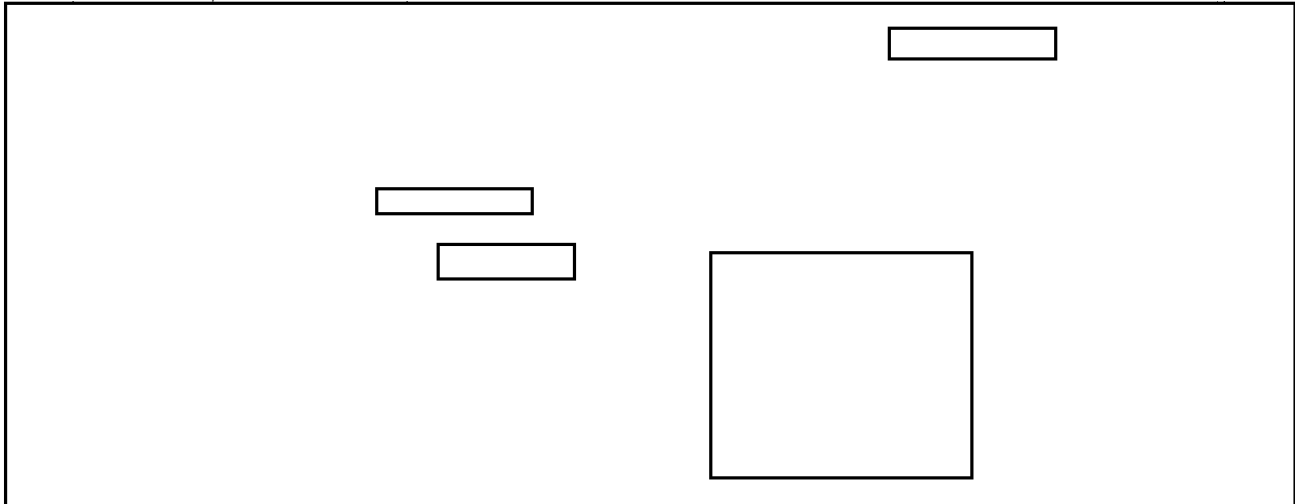
planning and funding, the Agency could make a transition from the current obsolescent communications system to one that would meet our increasing needs without increasing the work force by the end of the decade. Without such a transition, OC can not guarantee that its equipment will hold up. Mr. [] and his team therefore recommend that the communications program be "surge funded" from FY-83 to FY-86 to provide systems capable of meeting user needs, reestablish systems planning and a program of orderly equipment replacement, and complete the training necessary to broaden the skills of OC personnel. []

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Mr. Briggs observed that the above would require about [] over the next four years. []

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6. Noting that Mr. [] team's recommendation was of the "all or nothing" variety, Mr. Carlucci asked if there were not other possible solutions, such as reducing requirements, making tradeoffs in the items listed above, or taking advantage of interagency communications systems. Mr. Briggs suggested that if the Agency were to join with other Government agencies to share some communications costs, it should define and retain control of those services fundamental to the Agency's business, such as covert communications and secure voice. Mr. Lipton suggested that OC should be more rigorous in challenging component requirements. Mr. Clarke observed that the main problem was still that the Agency was now faced with the consequences of having allowed a drawdown of equipment inventories and deferring major investments in modernization and recapitalization in the last 10 years or so. []

7. In response to Mr. Carlucci's question regarding what the FY-82 budget would do for OC, Mr. Lipton said that OC would experience negative growth and would have to retrench. Mr. Carlucci then initiated a discussion regarding what would constitute an effective strategy if the Agency tried for surge funding in FY-83. A discussion ensued on the pros and cons of going for a supplemental appropriation for FY-82,

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ranking a \$50 million communications package within FY-83 guidance, and ranking the latter just outside guidance and making a strong case for it. The likelihood of OMB initiating an interagency communications study was mentioned. Mr. Lipton acknowledged that OMB might conclude that there should be one Government agency providing overseas communications. Mr. Wortman said that he would favor having the Agency control such a system. The DDCI agreed that CIA would be a logical candidate.

8. Mr. Carlucci said that he would defer to the Comptroller on whether or not to rank a "surge funding" communications package within or outside of FY-83 guidance, but he did want to make a strong case for obtaining the funds. He requested that the Comptroller draft a memorandum to the D/OMB advising him of the seriousness of the communications problem and suggesting that it be examined in an interagency context. Mr. Carlucci also asked that in order to develop the strongest case possible, the communications planning team be supplemented by any necessary staffing effort to address the following: the elements of the proposed upgrading discussed and any possible tradeoffs among them; any potential for reducing workloads; relative responsibilities with State and NSA; and the possible value of creating an interagency forum to review the overall communications problem. Mr. Dirks noted that Defense might develop another satellite during 1983-84 that could impact on any interagency solution.

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from the other communications areas discussed earlier. Mr. Lipton said that he could not suggest any strategy or solution at the moment. Noting that the Agency would have to get as many resources as it could through the budget process for covert communications, Mr. Carlucci said that he would give some more thought to the problems presented and subsequently discuss them with the appropriate Deputy Directors and the Comptroller.

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10. The meeting was adjourned.

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